



## **Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee**

Date: July 19, 2023.

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Conducted via hybrid format:

- In-Person: Town Hall Annex, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02474.
- Virtual: Zoom.

### **Minutes**

Attendees:

- Executive Committee: Christopher Tonkin (chair), Linda Epstein (pending confirmation), Muris Kobaslija, Jack Johnson, Doug Mayo-Wells, Scott Smith (TAC liaison).
- Town of Arlington: John Alessi (Senior Transportation Planner), Officer Hacey.
- Members of the Public: Len Greenberg, Rod Holland.

#### **1. Greetings and introductions, ground rules for online meetings.**

ABAC voted to approve the May and June minutes. Proposed by Christopher Tonkin, seconded by Scott Smith, carried unanimously.

#### **2. Approval of outstanding meeting from previous meetings.**

Committee Secretary Doug Mayo-Wells is unable to attend tonight's meeting, so no previous minutes to approve.

#### **3. Report from COBWEB Officer.**

Three new officers have gone through the COBWEB program, APD has bikes available for them. Safety concern reported at Water Street/Minuteman. Compliance by cyclists and pedestrians with the stop sign is poor, and there is no yield sign for cars, leading to multiple "near-miss" incidents. There is some concern that the stop signs are hard to see (poor visibility/smaller than usual signs). TAC had previously considered making this a 4-way stop; it may be worth re-considering. The Minuteman Plan proposes a raised crosswalk. "Stop ahead" signage could also potentially improve awareness/compliance.

#### **4. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Report.**

Joint ABAC/TAC table has been booked for Town Day; John Alessi is coordinating payment.

Repaving at Chestnut St, and Warren St. by Thompson School are scheduled in the immediate future, bumpouts will be installed on Warren St.

Redecking of the footbridge over Alewife Creek has been delayed, but the dangerous transition (from the bikeway to the bridge on the east side) should be addressed this season.

#### **5. Town Day.**

Scheduled for September 23rd from 10:30-4:30. Ideal to have at least one member of each committee at all times.

Action item: Scott Smith will check on availability of TAC supplies (since Christopher Tonkin's personal property will likely not be available).

Theme:

- Blue Bikes—2 new stations were approved on Monday. Would be good to have a map of stations, bike to demo, and/or free passes to give out.
- Safety—TAC can present on Appleton, Broadway, show crash map.

Action item: Christopher Tonkin will check with Galen Mook/MassBike on availability of lights to give away.

#### **6. ABAC Budget.**

Rollover of current balance to 2024 has been approved.

ABAC will explore working with the Arlington Education Fund. If coordinating with schools continues to be difficult it may be worth considering adult education opportunities, or using a church or school parking lot for a bike rodeo-style event.

Action item: Christopher Tonkin will contact Galen Mook/MassBike to see what they can offer within the budget

Fallback: If ABAC is unable to obligate the funds for a training program by October, the funds will be used to purchase additional bikeway signage.

#### **7. Lexington Bikeway Signage**

ABAC reviews photographs of Lexington signage as provided by Rod Holland.

The meeting attendees generally agree that the signs are helpful, although there are concerns that some designs are too complex or silly. Some don't match current formal guidance (e.g., ride single/walk double).

There are some wayfinding signs to direct people to the bikeway, although they are small and hard to see. Scott Smith suggests that signs at bikeway/street intersections (which would have the side benefit of discouraging confused motorists from turning onto the bikeway) are a higher priority.

Meeting attendees agree that signage helps bikeway users to understand safety concerns and expected/best practice behavior. The Town needs to determine which specific designs should be adopted, and where/how many signs should be installed. The dog park, Hurd field, and the Res are mentioned as areas of particular concern.

The Town also needs to identify funding for the signs. Christopher Tonkin and Scott Smith suggest applying for CPA funding. John Alessi is exploring Boston MPO bicycle and pedestrian funding to fund improvements to the Minuteman Bikeway. Signage could potentially be included, although federal funding might require compliance with MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, see <https://mutcd/fhwa.dot.gov>) guidance.

Scott Smith suggests that ABAC put together a plan with proposed locations/types of signs.

John Alessi mentions that Mass Trails funding could be an appropriate vehicle (Melrose recently secured funding for signage). Grant applications are due February first. (This program requires a match, so we'd need to identify additional support.)

Rod Holland suggests that this would be a good agenda item to discuss in the upcoming Tri-Town meeting.

## **8. New Bike Parking in the Heights.**

Christopher Tonkin and Jack Johnson have identified several locations in which inverted U racks could be installed, especially on the south side of Mass Ave where the sidewalks are wider. There are also commercial parking lots where private racks could be installed. Locations include:

- Trader Joe's (both bikeway and street level)
- Gold's gym (need to avoid conflict between bike/handicap vehicle parking)
- By D'Agostino's/Penzey's
- Apothca lot
- Citizens Bank

- on Davis Rd. (by Shattuck)
- on Paul Revere Rd (by Arlington Community Media Inc.)

The full report was sent to John Alessi. There is some budget available for installing racks, so this may be prioritized soon.

Using on-street parking for larger corrals was also explored. This may be pursued later.

The Committee notes that if businesses request bike parking the Select Board may be more inclined to approve parking removal.

## **9. Planning Department Updates.**

The Select Board has approved (and the Town is funding) 2 new BlueBikes stations, at Mill Street/Bikeway, and near the High School/CVS (onstreet). PPD director Claire Ricker is working with town counsel to finalize the new BlueBikes contract.

Toole Design has kicked off the Bike Design Guide update project, and the Town is convening a subcommittee (for 2 meetings) with representation from DPW, APD, ABAC, Business community, residents, A Select Board member, etc. Doug Mayo-Wells volunteers to represent ABAC.

No update yet on Complete Streets prioritization effort, evaluating feedback and expect to have results by the end of August.

Working to make sure that Arlington and Somerville are aligned on plans for Broadway, but nothing concrete to report at this time (still developing scope of work).

Data analysis:

- No updated data analysis available for automated counter yet
- John Alessi has been analyzing BlueBikes data to understand trips/what stations people are connecting to. Lots of trips from Arlington to Alewife, lots of recreational trips that start and end at the same station, but also weird outliers (e.g., Arlington to Roslindale)

The Planning Department is optimistic about progress on Mass Ave/Appleton designs, met with the Select Board. Integrated changes to design which address concerns of the developer at 1165 Mass Ave (added dedicated light phase) and the Board (more parking spaces), without removing any bike facilitation. Hoping for Select Board approval in September, with the expectation of a Mass Works application for funding by June 2024. (Updated plan will be made public before the Select Board vote).

## **10. Green Line Extension – Impact on Arlington.**

It is noted that there is no wayfinding to find/join the path from Union Square (although the extension does not pass directly through Union Square). The extension ends in Lechmere but facilitates connections to the North Bank Bridge, Paul Revere Park, and the Navy Yard. Effectively functions as an extension to the Minuteman, future “Tours of Arlington” could potentially visit the U.S.S. Constitution. The path intersection at Elm/College is unlikely to be improved soon.

## **11. Tri-Town Meeting.**

Potentially schedule for October.

Action Item: Christopher Tonkin will check on schedule with Bedford/Lexington.

## **12. Any other business.**

Jack Johnson mentions a rider dressed as Superman. APD is aware of this individual.

Christopher Tonkin praises DPW for prompt removal of a fallen tree.

The markings on the bikeway to alert cyclists to the pedestrian crosswalk by Trader Joe’s/Drake Village have worn away.

A mattress is reported on the bikeway near Brattle Street.

Action Item: John Alessi will check with DPW on repainting at Drake Village and removal of the mattress.

ABAC had previously recommended installing a mirror by Gold’s Gym to improve visibility/safety. Christopher Tonkin has a suitable mirror available and will review with John Alessi to see if this may be feasible to install now.

## **13. Adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.